

CLAIMS

1. A sports racquet having a tubular frame including a head portion defining a stringing area and a handle portion coupled to said head portion, wherein said head portion includes a plurality of opposed string holes formed in said frame and having string bearing surfaces for anchoring the ends of a first set of string segments extending in a first direction and the ends of a second set of string segments extending in a second direction, wherein said string holes are positioned to provide a predetermined spacing between contiguous string segments in each set, characterized in that at least one of said string holes is a first enlarged string hole having at least two string bearing surfaces for securing the ends of a pair of contiguous string segments of said first set at said predetermined spacing.
2. A sports racquet according to claim 1, wherein said frame has at least a second enlarged string hole opposed to said first enlarged string hole such that the opposite ends of a string segment can be received in both said first and second enlarged string holes.
3. A sports racquet according to claim 2, wherein said first and second enlarged string hole are staggered relative to one another.
4. A sports racquet according to claim 3, wherein said racquet includes at least one string having a plurality of string segments connected by connecting portions, wherein said at least one string extends through said string holes such that said string segments extend within said stringing area and form an interwoven string bed lying generally in a string bed plane, and said connecting portions extend along outer surfaces of said frame, wherein said at least one string is under tension, and wherein said outer surfaces act as bearing surfaces to counteract the tension of the strings.
5. A sports racquet according to claim 4, wherein said frame includes a plurality of contiguous enlarged string holes.
6. A sports racquet according to claim 5, wherein said enlarged string holes are oval in shape and whose major axis lies in said stringing plane, and wherein said holes have opposing ends along said major axis which form said string bearing surfaces.
7. A sports racquet according to claim 3, wherein said frame includes an inner surface facing said stringing area and an outer surface facing away from said stringing area, and wherein each enlarged string hole is defined by a pair of opposed interior walls of said frame extending between said inner and outer surfaces, thereby forming a truss-like internal structure.

8. A sports racquet according to claim 7, wherein said interior walls lie on opposite sides of the stringing plane.
9. A sports racquet according to claim 8, wherein said frame includes a first plurality of contiguous enlarged string holes and a second plurality of contiguous enlarged string holes which are opposed to said first plurality, and wherein said frame includes interior wall portions extending between each contiguous pair of enlarged string holes, and wherein said interior wall portions lie in the stringing plane and underlie the connecting portions of the strings.
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10. A sports racquet according to claim 9, wherein said interior wall portions are coextensive with said interior walls.
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11. A sports racquet according to claim 3, wherein said frame includes a plurality of contiguous enlarged string holes, and wherein said racquet includes a soft rubber grommet strip having grommets extending through said enlarged string holes, and an outer strip made of a harder material which overlies said grommet strip and against which the connecting portions of the strings bear.
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12. A sports racquet according to claim 11, characterized in that each said grommet includes a pair of small, parallel holes for receiving a pair of string segments.
13. A sports racquet according to claim 11, wherein said first set of string segments are cross string segments and said second set of string segments are main string segments, wherein said head portion includes a throat bridge having a plurality of contiguous enlarged string holes for anchoring a plurality of main string segments, and wherein said grommets are located in said enlarged string holes.
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14. A sports racquet according to claim 13, wherein said throat bridge has opposite ends, wherein each opposite end is split to allow outlying main strings to pass through said throat bridge, and wherein the split ends define a bearing surface for securing a main string in said throat bridge.
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